

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

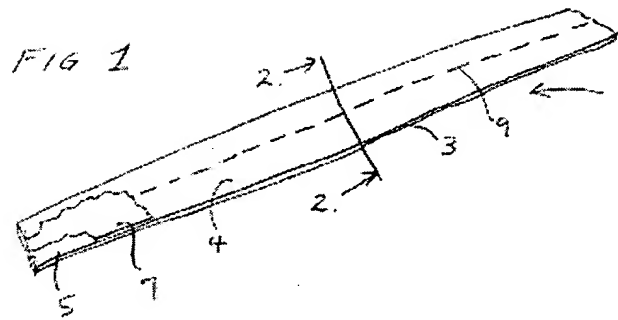
Claims 5 and 13-23 were previously pending in the application. New claim 24 is added. Therefore, claims 5 and 13-24 are presented for consideration. Claims 5 and 16-23 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

Claims 16, 17 and 20 are amended as suggested in the Official Action to address the claim objections noted in the Official Action.

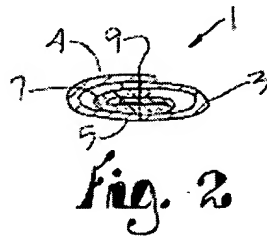
Claim 13 was rejected as anticipated by LEES 3,768,111. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 is amended and recites an outer layer of inexpensive waste material folded onto itself to form an exteriorly-facing upper outer layer and an exteriorly-facing lower outer layer. Claim 13 also recites a connection extending through both exteriorly-facing outer layers and an inner layer along substantially an entire length of a substantially central portion of the layers to maintain the inner layer between the exteriorly-facing upper and lower outer layers.

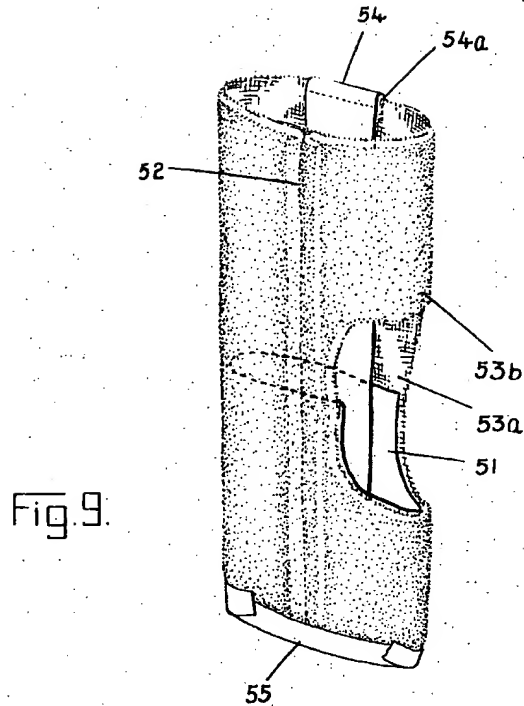
By way of example, Figure 1, reproduced below, shows an outer layer folded onto itself to form an exteriorly-facing upper outer layer 4 and an exteriorly-facing lower outer layer 5.



As further seen in Figure 2, reproduced below, a connection 9 extends through both exteriorly-facing outer layers 4,5 and an inner layer 7 along substantially an entire length of a substantially central portion of the layers to maintain the inner layer 7 between the exteriorly-facing upper and lower outer layers 4,5.



As disclosed on column 5, lines 33-60 describing Figure 9 of LEES, reproduced below, the arrangement of LEES comprises an inner layer 51, an intermediate layer 53a and an outer covering layer 53b formed into a tube by a line of stitching 52. After the tube is formed, a strip 54 is inserted in the tube opposite the stitching as reinforcement. The strip 54 may be stitched to the layers 51, 53a at the bottom of the tube. The bottom of the tube may be taped shut as at 55.



Based on the depiction in Figure 9, it appears that the stitching only goes through exterior layer 53b. Nevertheless, even if the stitching were to extend through the inner layer 51, LEES does not disclose a connection extending through both exteriorly-facing outer layers and the inner layer to maintain the inner layer between the exteriorly facing upper and lower outer layers as recited.

As the reference does not disclose each and every element as set forth in the claim, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected as being anticipated by BRAMMER EP 0 638 277. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 is amended and recites an elongate ribbon comprising a strip of fabric. Claim 14 further recites that exteriorly-facing outer fabric layers and an inner filling are connected together along substantially an entirety of a substantially central portion of the inner filling and exteriorly-facing upper and lower outer fabric layers to maintain the inner filling between the outer layers.

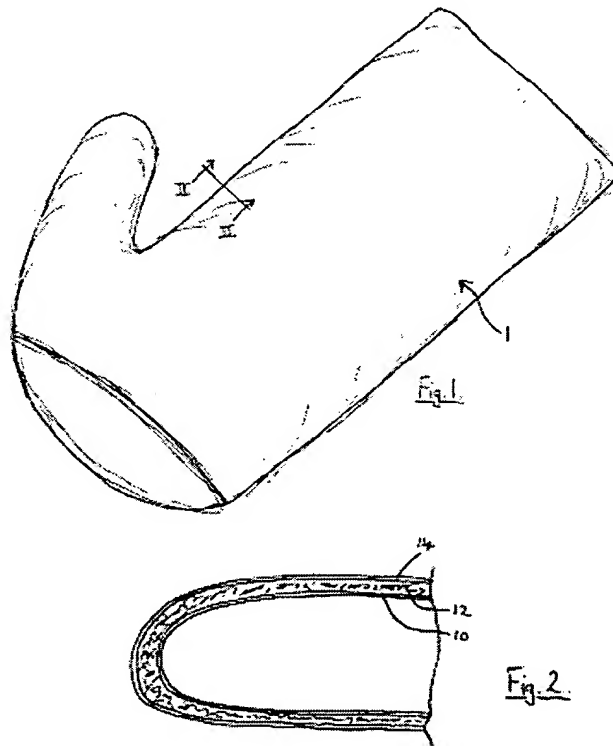
By way of example, Figure 1, reproduced above, shows an elongate ribbon comprising a strip of fabric. Figure 1 further shows an example wherein the exteriorly-facing outer fabric layers 4, 5 and the inner filling 7 are connected together at 9 along substantially an entirety of a central portion of the inner filling 7 and outer layers 4, 5.

As further seen in Figure 2, reproduced above, the connection 9 of the layers 4, 5 and 7 extends through the inner filling 7 and through the outer layers 4 and 5 to maintain the inner filling 7 between the outer layers 4, 5.

Claim 15 recites that exteriorly-facing outer strips and an inner filling are bound together by a connection extending through the outer strips and the inner filling along substantially an entirety of a central portion of the inner filling and the outer strips to maintain the inner filling between the outer strips.

BRAMMER discloses with respect to Figures 1 and 2, reproduced below, an oven mitt having outer layer 14 and inner layer 10 or 12. Clearly the glove/mitten of BRAMMER is neither an elongate ribbon nor a strip of fabric as these terms would be recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art.

In any event, the position set forth in the Official Action is that the material of the oven mitt is folded over and bound together along the edges.



Although the above characterization of BRAMMER appears to be correct, nevertheless, BRAMMER neither discloses that exteriorly-facing outer fabric layers and an inner filling are

connected together along substantially an entirety of substantially central portion of the inner filling and exteriorly-facing upper and lower outer fabric layers to maintain the inner filling between the outer layers as recited in claim 14, nor discloses that exteriorly-facing outer strips and an inner filling are bound together by a connection extending through the outer strips and the inner filling along substantially an entirety of a central portion of the inner filling and the outer strips to maintain the inner filling between the outer strips as recited in claim 15.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Withdrawn claims 5 and 16-23 should be examined and allowed as part of the present application because these claims include at least the limitations of one of claims 13, 14 or 15.

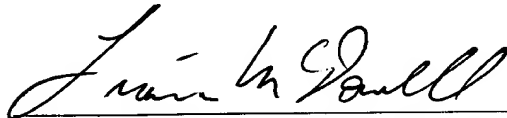
New claim 24 depends from claim 13 and further defines the invention and is believed patentable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim. Support for claim 24 can be found in Figure 1.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing Remarks, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", written in dark ink.

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